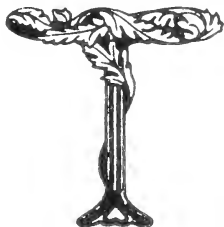


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PROGRESS  
OF  
THE QUEEN CITY  
CHARLOTTE  
AND  
MECKLENBURG  
COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA



NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TEN



STORY OF  
PROGRESS  
OF THE  
QUEEN CITY  
CHARLOTTE  
AND  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
North Carolina

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By W. R. HENRY

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## The Thirteen Colonies

The writer has read about all that has been so beautifully written of the Mecklenburg Independence Celebration, 20th of May in Charlotte. Strange to say, he has failed to see where any historic treatment, however brief, has been given to the Thirteen Colonies, so foundationally connected with our great Republic and with the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

True, there was in the magnificent parade of the recent celebration, a gorgeous float, where on, in all their grace and beauty, sat as if enthroned, thirteen radiant maidens representing the Thirteen Colonies, but how many of the forty thousand spectators, especially the young folk, had any clear idea of the Colonies, the order of their settlement or even their names-history that every child should commit to memory.

Since the Colony of North Carolina was one of the most important of the original thirteen, a brief mention of the Sisterhood is deemed pertinent and indeed necessary to a proper treatment of the matter in hand.

Virginia, called "The Mother of States and Statesmen," was settled in A. D. 1607, and through the mist of time we can see Sir John Smith there at Jamestown, the founder of all the Smiths; and the lovely Indian Princess, Pocahontas, the ancestress of John Randolph of Roanoke and other F. V.'s of the "Old Dominion."

The next Colony settled, was Massachusetts, in 1620, the land of the Puritan, where "Plymouth Rock" juts out into human history like some mighty peak of the Alps upon its environment, and at whose base anchored the "Mayflower," with the

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## THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

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“Pilgrim Fathers,” pioneers of religious liberty, on December 21, 1620.

New York came third, and was settled in 1623. It is a long jump from the huts that constituted the city of New Amsterdam, erected on Manhattan Island by the Dutch in 1623, to the present glories of our Metropolis, but the leap from those huts to the top of New York's skyscrapers of today is but a fair measure of American progress.

The Dutch called their province “New Netherlands,” and their city on Manhattan Island, New Amsterdam, both afterwards taking the name, New York, in honor of the Duke of York, brother of Charles II.

New Hampshire, founded in 1629, was first called Laconia, and then New Hampshire, after Hampshire county, in England.

“Maryland, my Maryland,” taking its name from St. Mary's town on the Potomac river, joined the Sisterhood of Colonies in 1634, and became a refuge for persecuted Roman Catholics. One of its greatest monuments being the “Toleration Act.” Lord Baltimore gave his name to the Metropolis of Maryland, but grander than his, looms the majestic figure of “Carrol, of Carrollton.”

Connecticut came next, in 1635. How often the story of her “Charter Oak” has thrilled the heart of young America? The English Governor endeavoring to seize her Charter, Capt. Wadsworth carried it away, and hid it in the hollow of an oak tree, which was thenceforth called the “Charter Oak.” This reminds us somehow of the ballot box magic that has been known since, to some Americans, but let it go at that.

Rhode Island, “Little Rhody,” clasped hands with her big sisters in 1636, and there on Narraganset

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## THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

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Bay, we behold the memorial of her hate of tyranny, the city of Providence, so named by Roger Williams, because there he found shelter through the providence of God from the snow of winter and the fire of religious persecution.

Delaware was founded in 1638, by Swedes, descendants of those flaxen haired warriors who in olden time ravaged Europe and marched in victory adown the streets of the Seven Hill'd City.

North and South Carolina, up to the year 1729, constituted one Colony, called Carolina. The first settlement was made in 1663, at Edenton, at the mouth of Chowan river, and was called the Albemarle Colony. Those who live over our Southern border who have carped at certain patriotic claims of Mecklenburg, to be elaborated later, should remember that this Albemarle settlement of Carolina had set up its government and was in Legislative session two years before Charleston was even started, by William Sayle in 1670. Both Colonies, however, were ever afire with the spirit of liberty, and both rejected by rebellion, the "Fundamental Constitutions," or "Grand Model" of John Locke, because they breathed an aristocratic and monarchical spirit despised by the Colonists.

"Virginia had her Pocahontas and Patrick Henry." Massachusetts her "Plymouth Rock and Pilgrim Fathers;" Connecticut, her "Charter Oak," but it was on the shores of the Old North State, that Virginia Dare first saw the light, the first white child born in America, and forever by her side, through the haze of time we see the grand figure of Sir Walter Raleigh, whose name is worn as a crown by Raleigh, the Capital of North Carolina.

New Jersey joined the Colonies in 1664.

Pennsylvania, "Penn's Woods," was settled in

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## THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

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1682 by Quakers, and soon came under the government of the great Quaker, William Penn. His treaty with the Indians under a large elm tree on the site of Philadelphia, is one of the most familiar pictures in American history. William Penn laid out "the City of Brotherly Love," Philadelphia, in 1682, and "within a year a hundred houses were built." Behold the Quaker Capital today. How glorious the American spirit. How slow the growth of European towns in comparison.

But before we leave the Colony of Pennsylvania, let us consider another object; the Mason and Dixon's line, established between Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1767, by George Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, surveyors appointed by the King of England.

The poet Campbell wrote of "the bloodiest picture in the book of time," but this "Mason and Dixon's line" became in time one of the bloodiest lines that ever marked the earth, its crimson, now happily faded forever, under the chemic influence of National Unity.

Georgia, splendid Georgia, sometimes called, we think erroneously, the "Empire State of the South," for that title belongs, we opine, either to North Carolina or to our Southwestern colossus, Texas, was settled in the eighteenth century, 1733. As Massachusetts and Maryland had been asylums for those seeking freedom from religious persecution, so Georgia, under Governor James Edward Oglethorpe, its founder, became an asylum for the unfortunate poor, fleeing the horrors of English prisons, so graphically painted by Charles Dickens. Georgia was so named in honor of George II.

In the order of settlement Georgia was the

Thirteenth Colony, and in view of her magnificent development and her beautiful Capital, she stands a majestic refutation of the superstition concerning the number thirteen.

When the first gun of the American Revolution was fired, the Colonies had a population of three millions of people.

### The Republic

The Thirteen Colonies emerged from the smoke and fire of Revolution, thirteen splendid States. Fused into a Republic, American manhood has overcome every obstacle, and withstood every shock, until today forty-eight stars twinkle on our National banner, each symbolizing a State—Empire and united, form a World-Power whose flag wherever it kisses the breeze tells the oppressed of Earth that its silken folds represents a Government, “whose sword is sharp enough, and whose arm is strong enough, to reach every rascal that transgresses its laws.”

“Time’s noblest offspring is the last,” that meant the Great Republic. Mr. Gladstone declared, “The Americans have the natural base for the greatest continuous empire ever established by man.” Edward Atkinson, declares that, “instead of eighty million inhabitants, the United States could easily support one hundred million without increasing the area of a single farm, by simply cultivating them up to the standard of reasonably good agriculture,” and that “our resources fully developed, would support one billion inhabitants.”

Walter Bagelot forty years ago, wrote, “when England lost her supremacy in manufacturing, her

decline will be as swift as was Rome's after Constantine transferred the Capital to Constantinople."

Now mark this, "The United States snatched the primacy in manufacturing from England in 1880, in iron and steel in 1895, and in coal production in 1900. The United States produces twenty-five per cent of the world's gold, thirty per cent of its silver, forty-five per cent of its coal, seventy-five per cent of its cotton and eighty per cent of its corn."

The banking power of the United States is now \$16,000,000,000, equal to the entire banking power of the world in 1890; the entire banking power of the world outside of the United States is only \$21,000,000,000.

In the words of a recent writer:

"Four years now adds as much to the country's wealth as the aggregate was forty-two years ago. Every succeeding sunrise in 1907 sees \$10,000,000 added to the wealth of the United States. This country's wealth is greater than that of the United Kingdom and France combined, the second and the third of the world's nations, respectively, on this roll.

The greatest romance of the world's annals remains untold. Who will write the epic of the locomotive's conquest; of the proposed sixty thousand ton ship, of the wireless telegraph, of the aeroplanes, of the gold, silver, coal, and copper discoveries and development; of the steamplow, the steam-harvester and the labor-economizing appliances by which one man does more work, and does it better, than four men did it forty-two years ago? And the rest of this wonder-tale of American expansion from Lincoln's day to Taft's?"

The alarmist is abroad in the land. One declares

that, "our resources are being rapidly exhausted." Another tells us that "the opportunities to make money are not as good as they were some years ago." It was Henry H. Rogers who said not long since, "Don't be a pessimist. Believe in your country. There never were so many opportunities as there are today. The resources of this land have only been scratched."

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### The South

Her vast potentialities, grand history, salubrious climate, and just laws, are challenging the attention of the world, and the bravery of her men and the beauty of her women are known of the nations of earth.

Washington Irving tells us, that "So charming was the plain of Granada, under the Moors, so refreshing its fountains and so luxuriant its gardens, watered by the windings of the Zeneil, so opulent its valleys where grew in profusion the orange and the pomegranate, where grapes hung in rich clusters about the peasants cottage, and where the groves were musical with the song of the nightingale, so great the prosperity and happiness, where all had once been but a barren waste, that the inhabitants imagined that Heaven was situated in that part of the sky which overhung the plain."

This is a perfect picture of the South, if we will add thereto, "education and the smokestack," as she has become, since she staggered—

"Out from the valley of death and tears;

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What says the stranger to such vitality?

Flung on the shore of defeat,

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## THE SOUTH

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Hardly the survivors have sprung to their feet,  
When the nations are thrilled by the clarion words  
Coming up from the South, *Excelsior, Forward.*”

She is the most American part of America. The current of her citizenship is unpoluted by foreignisms and if the time ever comes, predicted by Lord Macaulay, when our institutions will be strained to the breaking point, then may the Republic rely upon that spirit of the South that wrote Alamance, and Moore’s Creek, and Cowpens, and King’s Mountain, and Guilford Court House on the scroll of fame. The flag of the Republic can never droop, come what may, so long as Southern manhood survives, for the Stars and Bars, bequeathed Southern valor forever, to the defense of the Stars and Stripes:

“Four short years we saw it gleam,  
A people’s hope, and then refurled,  
Even while its story was the theme  
Of half the world.”

Behold the South of today! Have we not “the mason’s chisel chirping all over the land?” Do not new enterprises of all kinds, start in crowds, “like larks rise and darken the air in winter time.” Can we not see, “in our banks, piles of glittering gold, amiable as Hesperian fruit; heaps of silver, shimmering like the sheen of the sun-kissed hillocks on the Jungfrau’s brow, and stacks of bills, which seem to whisper a symphony as they rustle.” Now this is not hyperbole—this is not exaggeration. Is it?

Read the following words of Mr. Edmonds, the brilliant Editor of the *Manufacturer’s Record*:

“The South has increased the capital invested

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## THE SOUTH

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in its cotton mills from \$92,000,000 to \$250,000,000, and nearly trebled the number of its spindles, having increased the 3,693,000 which it had in 1897 to 9,760,000 in 1906. During the same period the South built 15,901 miles of railroad, bringing its total mileage to 64,035.

“Ten years ago it was still a question open to discussion as to whether the South could successfully compete with New England in the manufacture of cotton goods. This question has been forever settled; conditions have been reversed, and it is now a question whether New England can compete with the South.

“Within the decade every important problem confronting the iron and steel interests of the South has been solved. As in cotton, so in iron; it is no longer a question whether Alabama can compete with Pennsylvania, but it is already seen that the time is coming when it will be a question whether Pennsylvania can compete with Alabama.

“Louisiana has taken rank as the dominant power in the world's sulphur market. Connected with phosphate and sulphur interests is the development of the cottonseed oil industry, yielding important ingredients as the basis of fertilizer manufacture. These combinations have likewise been not an unimportant factor in inducing great packing interests of the West to establish themselves in the South, especially in Texas.

“The discoveries of oil in Texas and Louisiana and Indian Territory have developed a vast industry in the Southwest undreamed of 10 years ago.

“Energy long running to waste in the rivers whose source is the Appalachian Mountains is being utilized in hydro-electric work on a scale which is

making the South the greatest centre in America, if not in the world, for the development of hitherto unutilized water-powers for electrical energy.

“Within the decade the country has come to look upon the South as a main reliance for its supply of lumber, as it long has been the source of naval stores of this country and for much of the world. The comparatively humble beginnings in furniture-making have expanded into a great industry, making North Carolina the chief rival of Michigan.”

We are told that, prior to 1865, the South had to go to the North or to England for practically all of its cotton goods, while now it is using about as many bales of cotton in its mills as the North.

Says an eminent authority, “Nearness to the raw material and cheapness of land, labor and rents, will probably give the South, in the not distant future, almost as much of a monopoly in cotton manufacturing as it now has in cotton growing. The *Tradesman's Annual* said in January last:

“During the last cotton year we sent out of the country about 8,500,000 bales of raw cotton; fully two-thirds of the crop; but such is the growth of the cotton industry in the United States that the South now contains 700 mills, operating nearly 10,000,000 spindles and 1908 will add fully 20 more plants. The States of North and South Carolina have no less than 400 plants with 6,300,000 spindles.

Notwithstanding this consumption of cotton, the United States Department of Agriculture declares, that “only one third of the world's population regularly wear clothes, that half are partially clad, and that the rest habitually go naked.” What a future for the South! There are the millions of

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## NORTH CAROLINA

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China and Japan to be clad, and there lies the mighty Pacific, the sapphire trail of our trade to the Orient. Before 1915, the Panama canal, the greatest triumph of the centuries, will open the door of the East to the cotton fields and factories of the South.

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### North Carolina

We have shown how the Colonies became the Republic; that the Republic is the greatest power on earth; that the South is the most favored section of the Republic, and now we confidently assert that North Carolina is the best part of the South.

Her history is luminous with heroic deeds, and all that she needs is Capital, to make her the equal in wealth of any State of the Union. She has climate to sell. As the writer said in an address some years ago:

Every vegetable or agricultural product to be found in the temperate zone grows luxuriantly in her soil; her wheat is unexcelled; her cotton takes rank with the best, except—perhaps, the Sea Island; no State of the Union can surpass or even compare with her numerous and valuable and beautiful minerals; zircon deposits mined and used for the incandescent gas-light burners, which promise to rival the electric in brilliancy and the lovely Hiddenite stone, rarer, richer and more beautiful than the most costly emerald, are found no where on earth, but in the bosoms of her hills and mountains. Her several species of woods, equal in quality and excel in number those of any other State; her tobacco surpasses any in the Union and is equal if not superior to any in the world. She possesses rich

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## NORTH CAROLINA

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stores of gold, silver, copper, and iron, of as good quality as any in Alabama or Pennsylvania. Her pasture lands of the east and west, are as good for raising sheep and cattle as the richest plains of Texas or Australia.

Truly, it may be said of those who live within her borders:

“The Lord, thy God, hath brought thee into a good land, a land of brooks of waters, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land wherein we may eat bread without scarceness, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills we may dig brass.”

“Her valleys laugh and sing,  
Forests and mountains ring,  
The plains their tribute bring,  
The streams rejoice.”

Already surpassed by only two States in cotton manufacturing, she imperatively demands more factories. Is this not true?

Go ask her streams, as they flow onward to the sea with a force it is calculated, sufficient to run the looms of Leeds, Lowell, Manchester, South Carolina and London, and hear them answer, “Yes,” in the soft sweet tones of rippling waters.

Go ask her cotton fields, with their snowy richness, founded alas, too often, on unpaid for guano and mortgaged for Chicago meat.

In this land of the South, North Carolina is joyously situated. She is caressed by her Sister South Carolina, “where God pours out His floods of sunshine; in whose groves the mocking bird swoons with his own melody,” and the hum of

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## **"THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS."**

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whose factories warns Massachusetts, that she will yet beat her along the ways of peace; and by Virginia, whose every mountain side and valley is vibrant of battles past, of heroic deeds, of splendid character; Virginia, "Where new cities now blossom in the track of war, tokens of eternal friendship between sections; while just beyond North Carolina's cloud-capped mountain heights sits in regal grandeur her lovely daughter, Tennessee.

Yes, "The South is the Klondike of America, without the perils of ice and snow, and it is here that the great fortunes of the future are to be made."

### **"The Queen City of the Carolinas"**

As the South is the best part of the Republic and North Carolina the best part of the South, so is Charlotte the wealthiest and most progressive city and section of North Carolina.

Taking her name from the German Princess, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, afterwards Queen to George the Third, Charlotte has the Teutonic spirit of conquest; the solidity and thrift of the Scotch and the geniality and impulses of the Irish, her backbone is Scotch-Irish.

There is no better way to present the pivotal facts about the city of Charlotte, with her climate as delightful as that of Southern France; with her annual mean temperature of 60 degrees; with her seven hundred and forty-three feet elevation above the brine; with her charming environment, there is no better way to emphasize her progress and prosperity than by quoting the words of Maj. J. C. Hemphill, the brilliant Editor of the Charleston

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## “THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS.”

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News and Courier, who on returning to his own grand old city from Charlotte recently, wrote these words:

“The freight business of the town yields the railroads \$2,000,000 the year. More than \$1,000,000 has been invested in new buildings during the last year. In eleven years the number of telephones in the town has increased from 130 to 2,557. The annual receipts of the postoffice amounts to \$114,600. Within one hundred miles of Charlotte there are 369 cotton mills operating 4,775,000 spindles, 110,300 looms and representing a capital of \$140,000,000. There are seven banks in the town with total assets of \$9,976,000. The assessed valuation of the property in Charlotte in 1908 was \$15,415,715, property being assessed at 35 per cent of its market value. The bonded indebtedness of the town is \$1,340,000, and the tax for city purposes is \$1.20 on a valuation of \$100. About 30,000 bales of cotton are marketed in Charlotte annually. Last year the cotton buyers of Charlotte purchased not less than 300,000 bales of cotton. The annual value of the production of twenty cotton mills, six trouser factories, seven machine shops and three cotton oil mills last year was \$10,725,000.

Charlotte has twenty-six miles of water mains and the daily capacity of its waterworks is 15,500,000 gallons. It has 49 miles of sewers, 53 miles of paved and macadam streets, 300 arc lights, 3 daily papers, 3 colleges, 3 preparatory schools, 16 graded schools with 5,004 children enrolled, 60 churches, 2 libraries, 5 hospitals, an auditorium with a capacity of 4,500, a Young Men's Christian Association building which cost \$125,000, a new twelve-story office building which cost \$325,000 and a new fire-proof hotel which cost \$290,000.

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## “THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS.”

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There is nothing mythical or allegorical about Charlotte. It is one of the greatest towns in the South. It is real. One of the greatest factors in the development of the town is D. A. Tompkins. He started in Edgefield county, South Carolina, and he has “made good” in Charlotte. What a wonderful thing it is for any part of the country to have had a town like Charlotte built up by the energies of its own people! It differs from Atlanta in the respect that Charlotte has made itself and it is as firm as the everlasting hills by which it is surrounded.”

Right here, we would call attention to the brochure of Mr. Wade H. Harris, named “Charlotte,” which is rich with facts about the city, told in most elegant style; to the prose poem and lovely descriptive monograph of Miss Julia M. Alexander, entitled, “Charlotte in Picture and Prose;” to the history of Mecklenburg County, by Dr. J. B. Alexander, redolent with suggestions of that old civilization of the South, which vanished with the battle-smoke of Gettysburg; that “civilization, with its white-columned mansions under cool spreading groves, its orange trees, waving their sprays of snowy blossoms, and its cotton fields stretching away to the horizon, alive with toiling slaves, who sang as they worked from early morn till close of day; that civilization with its pomp, its pride, its revelry, its splendid manhood, its soft-voiced dazzling beautiful women, and its Code, which held woman as spotless as a star, and which taught man to regard her with the respect and love accorded by the Romans to the Vestals.” I remember that civilization, and I thank God that I do, “it was the high tide of earthly glory.” But there are spots on the sun. What is perfect? Negro

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## "THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS."

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slavery was the curse of the South. The miasmatic poison, that paralyzed her progress. Cherishing then sweet memories of the old time, we clasp hands with the progressive spirit of the New. Those who wish to read an exhaustive, lucid, interesting and scholarly history of Mecklenburg County, should read the history by Mr. D. A. Tompkins.

Charlotte had a population of 8,500 in 1880, now grown to 45,455; she has two of the principal gold mines in the South, the Rudisill and St. Catherine, and in the adjoining county of Cabarrus, in 1886, a nugget of gold was found, that weighed 22 pounds; there are 83 gold mines in Mecklenburg County, and it is rich in quarries of variegated granite; here it is that the beautiful black-spotted leopardite is found; Charlotte, whose Banks are unsurpassed for solidity, was one of the four cities in the South, that did not issue scrip, when the financial blizzard struck our country in 1907.

Surrounded by a fertile and beautifully disposed country, one hundred and ninety miles of macadam roads, famous as the "Mecklenburg Road System," renders the movement of farm products a wonder, in contrast with the hauling over the old roads, of even as late a time as twenty years ago.

"The Queen City," is said to be the greatest Building and Loan center in the United States in proportion to population. It is to these agencies that Charlotte owes so many of her beautiful and happy homes.

Her twenty-six miles of Electric Railway, with forty cars, is one of the best car systems in the South, and the development of the same, has been principally the work of her progressive citizen, E. D. Latta, who will soon extend his system to the Catawba river, where during the summer months,

one may visit minature Coney Islands and Luna Parks.

Charlotte enjoys the advantage of a central situation between New York and New Orleans, and is today the headquarters of the Southern Cotton Mill industry. Says another, “it is the home base for the cotton mills. It is to Charlotte that Capitalists come, when they want a mill built and equipped, and it is to Charlotte that mill men send their machinery when it is in need of repairs.”

The centrality of Charlotte is apparent—with her Railroads, with 34 passenger trains daily and then, there is the Clinchfield System, which backed by untold millions, and which beginning in the vast coal fields of West Virginia and surrounding States, has realized the Capitalistic dream of years, by boring through or summounting the granite obstacles and dizzy heights of the Apalachian Range, extending its gleaming length to the Atlantic, a system which to the South, is second in importance, only to the Panama Canal.

It is said that the wisest of engineers condemn a bridge, whatever the cost, on which birds will not roost. Now one of the most striking features about Charlotte is that it is the home of more than five hundred traveling men. And let me say, the drummer is a splendid fellow. I have known him, “he is the thermometer and barometer of nations, the advance agent of General Prosperity,” and he can sell goods all day, and after supper talk more politics and philosophy and diplomacy and statescraft and religion and business than—well, anybody. A splendid big hearted citizen is the drummer, and it is a good sign that he likes Charlotte.

But even the briefest presentation of Charlotte

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## "THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS."

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would be insufficient without reference to some of her public buildings, places of historic interest, vistas and elegant residences. This must be brief. Only a few of the many can be named. It is pleasing to note that "The Queen City" likes the Colonial style of architecture, though rich in all kinds. One viewing Charlotte would be attracted by the picturesque residence of Mrs. "Stonewall" Jackson; the beautiful home of A. H. Washburn; the residence of the late Dr. John H. McAden, veteran in war and peace, one of North Carolina's chief figures in manufacturing as well as in banking; in giant elms embowered stands the grand Colonial dwelling of C. W. Tillett. Beautiful architectural creations are the residences of C. H. Robinson, the Liddell's, F. O. Hawley's, Jr., and on East Avenue of B. F. Withers, whilst the home of John S. Blake, has the aristocratic bearing and elegant proportion of an English "seat." The "Retreats" of R. O. Alexander, Charles L. Alexander, B. D. Heath, of George E. Wilson, R. M. Miller, R. A. Dunn, W. R. Burwell and of S. S. McNinch, would add charm to "Peach Tree Street," the "Fifth Avenue" of Atlanta; E. D. Latta's magnificent residence is an epic of art and comfort; Judge Bynums spacious home and grounds, with roses and magnolias, and Dr. Geo. W. Graham's home, typical of the South, would delight the soul of John Howard Payne. In front of the ancestral residence of Judge Frank I. Osborne stands a majestic oak, which was vigorous in its young tree-hood, before the American eagle twisted for the second time the tail of the British Lion; "Woodman spare that tree;" it is the living witness of more than a century of human history.

But after all the chief promise of Charlotte is

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## “THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS.”

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the fact, that she is the center of the greatest hydro-electric power system in the United States, except Niagara, if not in the world.

Take the chart recently published by the Southern Power Company, capital of \$10,000,000, which Company controls 110 miles of water rights along the Catawba, and glance at the data concerning the Whitney Company, on the Yadkin, whose investments have already exceeded five million dollars, and it will appear that within sixty miles of Charlotte, “exists water power enough to develop 1,000,000 electrical horse power, which will be conducted by transmission lines to half the mills of the South.”

Many of the mills in and about Charlotte are already being run with electricity.

There is a book called, “Walks About London,” but a man wishing to see Charlotte, her splendid reaches of bitulithic and Tarvia paved streets inviting him, would prefer a run about the city and her environs in one of her three hundred automobiles.

Without reference to order, we will mention a few of the objects that Charlotte would show him—some of the jewels that glitter upon her brow: The City Hall, The Post Office, U. S. Assay Office, and Monument to the gallant Shipp, one of the heroes of the Spanish-American war; her new and splendidly equipped Sanitorium; the Presbyterian, St. Peter's and Mercy General Hospitals, three of the best in the South; the mammoth new twelve story Realty building, which contains the offices of the Charlotte National Bank, unsurpassed for elegance in the whole country; her colossal Auditorium, her gem of an Academy of Music, and her new Y. M. C. A. building, which cost one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

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## “THE QUEEN CITY OF THE CAROLINAS.”

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Continuing his ride, for him, History would roll back the curtain of the years, as he gazed upon the plate which marks the place where Cornwallis quartered and planned to crush the hornets, the Mecklenburg militia, that stung him so badly along East Avenue that he called Charlotte the “Hornet’s Nest;” anon, our sightseer would feel his blood jump as he looked upon the spot where Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy stood, when he received the shocking news that President Lincoln had been assassinated—Abraham Lincoln—the best friend the South had in the North, and presently, he would come to the memorial of George Washington’s visit to Charlotte, May 25, 1791.

A breath of fresh air and a spin of a few miles, and our visitor “doing” Charlotte might behold the monument which marks the birthplace of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, the spot being then in Mecklenburg, now in Union County, and later, he might visit the scene where James Knox Polk, eleventh President of the United States, first saw the light. President Polk, who through Taylor and Scott, planted “Old Glory” in triumph on the battlements of the Capital of the Montezuma’s and “whipped Mexico before breakfast.”

On returning to the city, our tourist would behold the great dome of Mecklenburg’s splendid Court House, which marks the spot where once stood Queen’s Museum, or Queen’s College, the genesis of higher education in this section of the South; fifty lawyers minister at Mecklenburg’s altar of justice, and Charlotte’s imposing law building and especially its library, would delight the heart of Blackstone himself.

Not far from Charlotte, is Davidson College, one

of the most noted male institutions in the South, and “the Queen City” has the greatest Graded Schools in the “Old North State.”

Magnificent Elizabeth College, with its beautiful drives and parks, and the spacious grounds and imposing facade of the Presbyterian College; two of Charlotte’s chief jewels, are perfectly equipped for the intellectual advancement of woman.

Verily education is the anchor of our institutions. Let each State but educate its children, its young men and young women, and then “above the bayonet and the plume, shall appear the lilies of love and the palms of peace.”

Fifty-five ministers and sixty churches, attest Charlotte’s earnestness in matters spiritual, whilst fifty-five physicians and surgeons guard the physical body.

The Carnegie Library, is a Grecian poem in stone and brick; the new Baptist Church, a mixture of Byzantine and other architecture, is unique and impressive; St. Peter’s, the Episcopal fane, has the repose of power; the Methodist Church bears marked resemblance to some cathedral of the Old World, the Second Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Catholic Churches are noble edifices, but without invidious distinction, the First Presbyterian Church, in its sombre grandeur is one of most churchly churches on this side the Atlantic.

The elegant hotels of Charlotte have made it “the Convention City,” the Selwyn having been built at a cost of two hundred and ninety thousand dollars; the Buford makes the traveler feel at home, and the Leland has as its presiding genius Col. Henry Williams, one of the most genial hotelists in the entire country; “Stonewall,” and Central has a large clientele, and there are others.

In elegant offices in the Selwyn, is situated the dynamo that is making Charlotte hustle, that splendid organization, by name, “The Greater Charlotte Club,” under the engineering management of W. T. Corwith.

Charlotte has fifteen newspapers and periodicals, three dailies, the Charlotte Daily Observer; the Evening Chronicle, and the Charlotte News;

“The arch of the Press is the bow,  
Of promise to nations unborn;

\* \* \* \* \*

Serene and majestic, its span  
Shall reach and encircle each shore,  
A symbol and token to man,  
The deluge of darkness is o’er.”

The drama of Appomattox, hurried the President of the Confederacy and his Cabinet Southward, and on the 20th of April, 1865, eleven days after the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Confederate Cabinet had its headquarters in the building now occupied by the “Charlotte Daily Observer,” and “President Davis’ ” private room, is now the office where Hon. J. P. Caldwell, former Editor of the “Observer” wrote those editorials whose wisdom, political acumen, and conservatism have long since made this distinguished citizen of Charlotte, known throughout our land.

Strange, is it not, that of two great wars, one found its inspiration and beginning in Charlotte, the other, at the dissolution of the Confederate Cabinet, substantially its ending and its grave.

## **Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence**

“Cherished memories of the past constitutes the moral force of nations,” and was it not Father Ryan who said, “A land without memories is a land without liberty?”

Veneration for the deeds of their ancestors has kept ever present in the hearts of all Mecklenburgers and in the hearts of all North Carolinians as well, an undying love for and allegiance to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

The “Queen City” holds to it as her crown jewel, and even as the Brandenburg Gate, with its Car of Victory stands at the entrance to the City of Berlin, as an inspiration to the Teutonic heart, so the citizens of Charlotte and of Mecklenburg County have placed their great iron tablet on “Independence Square,” in their beautiful city, and have erected their monument in honor of the “Signers” of the Declaration of May 20th, 1775, and as an inspiration to this and future generations of American citizens.

Prior to the date last named, the Colonies had for a long time, been in a state of ferment, under the oppressions of England. Before that year, in different sections, Americans had poured out their blood in repelling injustice. The sons of Mecklenburg, as the writer understands it, have never claimed that they were braver than other Colonists, but they assert and establish beyond sane controversy, the greater truth, that is to say, the patriots of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, were the first to put into formal declaration, the colossal and nation-building idea of separation from the Mother Country.

Patrick Henry’s immortal speech in the Virginia Assembly had fired the American heart and the

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## THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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blaze he kindled, smouldered under tyrannic aggression until it burst into flame in Charlotte, May 20th, 1775.

When Edmund Burke made his great speech for "Conciliation," when Pitt declared in the House of Commons, "In my opinion this kingdom has no right to lay a tax on the colonies. America is almost in open rebellion. Sir, I rejoice that America has resisted," when Lord Camden said, in the House of Lords, "Taxation and representation are inseparably united. God has joined them. No British Parliament can separate them. This position I repeat, and will maintain to my last hour," they merited the gratitude of all Americans forever, but not one of them had even considered a separation of the colonies, they simply stood for the repeal of oppressive legislation.

Carpists have denied the existence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, but its truth is fixed in history by evidence and authority, stronger than that which supports many of its universally accepted facts.

The "Mecklenburg Declaration" is as well grounded in history as the Habeas Corpus Act, the landing of the Mayflower, or the execution of King Charles the First.

From 1825 to the present time, the event has been celebrated from time to time, and many of the most illustrious men of the nation have declared the Declaration authentic. Two of its ablest champions have been Dr. George W. and Professor Alexander Graham, of Charlotte. Then there is the overwhelming authority of the Moravian records and the unanswerable arguments of Mr. Moore's book, in addition to which Dr. Hawks, of New York, Governor Swain, United States Senator

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## THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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Zebulon B. Vance and others have sustained it, whilst Senator Hendricks, of Indiana, Senator Vorhees, Thomas F. Bayard, Adlai Stevenson, Vice-President of the United States; David B. Hill, of New York, and other celebrities have, prior to May 20th, 1909, attended its celebration.

The writer of this monograph, has the honor of advancing an authority in behalf of the Mecklenburgers Declaration, which seems to have escaped the attention of all those who have spoken on the subject. This authority leaves the matter open to no further controversy.

“Complete in eight volumes. Reviewed, Verified and endorsed by the Professors of History in Five American Universities, with an Introduction by Moses Coit Tyler, A. M. L. H. D., Professor of American History in Cornell University.” Such is the inscription that appears on the title page of the “Library of Universal History.”

Now what does this monumental and indisputable authority say of the subject under consideration? Turn to page 2507, Vol. 7, and there we find written, “In May, 1775, a Convention of Delegates, sitting at Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, declared their constituents absolved from all allegiance to the British crown. This is known as the Mecklenburg Declaration.”

If that is not conclusive of the controversy that has raged over this claim of the Mecklenburgers, then, like the Captain of Mohammed, we ought to burn the libraries.

“Then up with granite column inscribed with lofty phrase,  
Let Mecklenburg’s achievements resound through  
endless days;

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## CELEBRATION MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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Her sons were first to utter the disenthraling word,  
Let men proclaim their deathless name till all the  
world has heard."

### **Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20th, 1909.**

History in luminous letter, will tell future generations that William Howard Taft, President of the greatest Republic the world has known, came to Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 20th, 1909, and with burning eloquence and convincing logic, set the seal of his approval and admiration, upon the Declaration of the patriots of May 20th, 1775.

Hon. William Walton Kitchin, Governor of North Carolina, who on the 19th, had been the central figure of the splendid festivities of "Governor's Day," and who on the night of the 19th was the guest of honor at a magnificent reception at the elegant home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Tillett, with his grand bugle like voice, and in happiest vein, introduced the President to five thousand people in Charlotte's Auditorium, who went wild with enthusiasm as he arose to address them. The following excerpts taken from the President's speech, will show how he crushed the icons who would rob Charlotte of her glory. The President said:

"We are here to celebrate a declaration of Independence. There are some unregenerate persons who live in South Carolina and elsewhere that for various motives have cast a doubt upon the claim. Now anybody that comes to Charlotte who is not willing to admit in the full the Declaration of Independence made in Mecklenburg, is in the position

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## CELEBRATION MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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of a man of whom a lord justice of the Court of Appeals of Ireland told me. I met him in Canada. He had a good deal of experience in courts, and he was redolent with Irish stories. He said that he was holding court in the County of Tipperary, and that a man came before him and a jury charged in the indictment with manslaughter, and that the evidence showed that the deceased had come to his death by a blow from a blackthorn stick in the hands of the defendant; but the evidence also showed that the man who died had a 'paper skull,' as it is called in medical parlance—unduly thin. The verdict brought in was that of guilty of manslaughter,' and his lordship called the man before him, and asked him whether he had anything to say why the sentence of the court should not be pronounced upon him. The defendant, turning to his lordship said, 'No, your lordship, I have nothing to say, but I would like to ask one question.' 'What, my man, is that?' said he. 'I would like to ask 'What the devil a man with a head like that was doing in Tipperary?' I would like to add in explanation of my position, what the devil a man who does not believe in the Declaration of Mecklenburg is doing in this presence?

'Now it is a fact that by reason of the lax government, which Great Britain was able to give our colonies—I say 'lax'—it was lax, but it was unjust by fits and starts, we were—our ancestors were—the best prepared people for self-government that ever assumed an independent government. They had had 200 years of independence in the sense of distance from the home government. When brought to mind they were attacked occasionally by such tyranny as Governor Tryon manifested in North Carolina, and as was manifested by other

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## CELEBRATION MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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governors at different times throughout the other colonies, but all that time we were gathering experience, we were gathering a sense of responsibility as to our own communities, so that when in '75 you declared your independence here, and in '76 we all declared our independence at Philadelphia, we were in a condition with men as great, as able, as full of the knowledge of statecraft, as any nation in Europe or any nation that ever lived, to step into the ranks of nations and carry on a government worthy the consideration of the entire world."

In 1875, the New York Herald in its special report of the Mecklenburg Celebration of that year, attached special importance to the honor done the flag, the warmth of the greeting extended Northern guests, the healing and unifying influence of the re-vivified spirit of Colonial days, and argued that the Republic need not fear that Southern sectionalism, born of the war, would militate against the National Celebration to be held at Philadelphia the succeeding year, 1876.

But how much grander picture at the Charlotte Celebration of 1909! Behold! The President of the United States honors the occasion with his presence; he salutes the widow of "Stonewall" Jackson, as his carriage passes her home; at the grand reception that follows, Mrs. Jackson greets him as "the harmonizer of all our hearts;" with the chivalric grace of a second Sir Walter, the President protects her during the flood that falls upon the grand stand, and to complete the picture, through his Aide, he asks that the long line of ex-Confederates, act not only as his escort, but as his guard. What did the President mean by asking ex-Confederate veterans to act as his guard? Did

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## CELEBRATION MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

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he fear? No. Did he need them? No, not in the conservative South. Well, what did he mean? He meant simply this, I reckon, simply this, that as he had shown respect for the widow of the mighty Confederate Chieftain, so would he testify his confidence in those men, who, long ago, in the cause they believed to be right, carried their meteor flag through the horrors of an hundred pitched battles and kissed its tattered folds as it went down at Appomattox, wet with their tears.

Notwithstanding the brief remaining space at command, mention must be made of the thunderous roar of the Presidential salute of twenty-one guns, that greeted the Nation's Chief on the morning of the 20th, as his special rolled into Charlotte; of the distinguished Committees, many bands, forty thousand people; the dominance of "Old Glory;" the efficient work of Chairman E. B. Moore; the splendid order of it all, the vigilance of Chief T. M. Christenbury and his corps; the record breaking and thrilling work of Chief W. S. Orr and his "fire laddies" on exhibition "run;" the words of wisdom spoken by the President to the colored people at Biddle, the presence of distinguished representatives of the greatest newspapers of the country, the presence also of distinguished statesmen and citizens from other Commonwealths, three of the principal ones being, Senator Johnston, Maj. J. C. Hemphill, of Charleston, and Lieutenant Governor McCloud of South Carolina. Senator Lee S. Overman, of North Carolina, who has made fame in Washington, added his genial smile, perhaps not quite so enveloping, as the Ohio variety, to the splendid occasion, and then the ladies and the reception, but the biggest thing that day, except the mighty Ruler of the Republic, was the rain, or

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## CONDENSED FACTS ABOUT THE BRIGHT SPOT

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rather flood, the greatest in these parts in forty years, it was a senseless, non-respecting, impertinent rain, but unable in its Noahic monopolistic proclivities to dampen the ardor of the patriots. Mention, too, must be made of Charlotte's electric night-wonders during the Celebration, rivaling Buffalo, reaching its climax in a vari-colored, red, white and blue crown of electric lights, suspended hundreds of feet above "Independence Plate," on "Independence Square."

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### Condensed Facts About the Bright Spot

Nature has provided Charlotte with the logical location for a commercial and manufacturing center; it is well supplied with cheap power, labor, raw material, and convenient avenues for distribution of merchandise.

Water-power which will develop 1,000,000 electrical horse-power lies within 60 miles of Charlotte. A large portion of this vast energy is developed and turning the wheels of many factories.

The climatic conditions are excellent, conducive to good health, and favorable for manufacturing, making possible a low cost of living and moderate wages acceptable.

The demand for dwelling houses is in excess of the supply. In 12 years the telephones have increased from 130 to 3,100. The annual Postoffice receipts are \$136,746.

Seven banks, with total assets of \$10,863,022. Four Building and Loan Associations, with authorized capital of \$13,000,000, have enabled Charlotte to become a city of home-owners.

With 34 passenger trains daily and good freight

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## CONDENSED FACTS ABOUT THE BRIGHT SPOT

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facilities, Charlotte is the railroad center of the Carolinas. The combined annual freight business of Charlotte reaches over \$2,000,000.

Stop-over privileges permitted on tourists' tickets. Over 500 traveling men live in Charlotte.

Charlotte is the recognized center of the Southern cotton mill industry. Within 100 miles are 425 cotton mills, operating 5,511,543 spindles, 120,000 looms, and representing \$150,000,000 in capital.

Charlotte is the only city in the United States where a contract can be made for the building and fitting out complete of a cotton mill or cotton oil mill.

The seven completely equipped machine shops and the large mill supply houses make easy the obtaining of supplies.

Twenty-six miles of electric railway, operating 23 cars; 2 miles more under construction. Electricity and gas for light, heat, and cooking.

A productive agricultural country surrounds Charlotte, traversed by 210 miles of superb macadam roads, 21,500 bales of cotton marketed in Charlotte annually.

The 21 cotton mills, 6 trouser factories, 8 machine shops, and 3 cotton oil mills have a combined annual production of \$11,725,000. These four industries alone distribute in wages the sum of \$1,855,840, other concerns paying as much or more. Free from labor troubles.

New \$290,000 fire-proof hotel and other excellent hosteleries give to Charlotte unsurpassed hotel accommodations; \$125,000 Y. M. C. A.; Auditorium, with seating capacity of 4,500; 5 hospitals; 2 libraries; 62 churches; 6 colleges; 5 preparatory schools; 16 graded school buildings; 3 daily news-

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## CONDENSED FACTS ABOUT THE BRIGHT SPOT

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papers; 12 story office building; 26 miles of water mains; 219 hydrants; daily capacity of water works, 15,500,000 gallons; daily consumption, 1,550,000 gallons; capacity of standpipe, 715,000 gallons; 51 miles of sewer; 53 miles of paved and macadam streets; 300 arc lights.

Population, 45,455.



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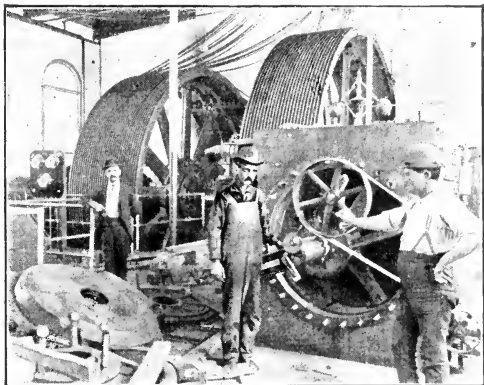
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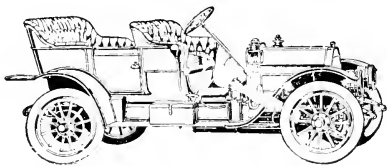
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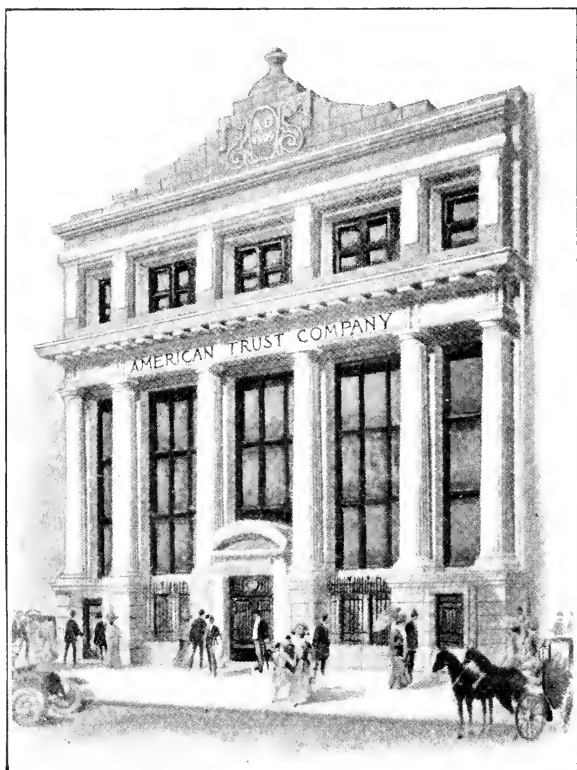
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